GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:950
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2005
EXPORT OF FOODGRAINS
Athithan Shri Dhanuskodi;Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice exported during the each of the last three years separately. Country-wise;

(b) whether any irregularities on export has been brought to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) whether any assistance is provided by the Government for grain exporters of the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether these exports are likely to affect the country`s food security;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not, the extent to which foodgrain exports would help in economy of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) The quantity of wheat and rice exported during each of the last three years are as under:-

(Quantity in tones)

Year	Basmati Rice	Non-Basmati Rice	Wheat
2002-03	708793	4259077	3671254
2003-04	771491	2640572	4093084
2004-05	1126125	3645873	1995997

Source: DGCI&S

Country wise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India compiled by the Directorate of General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata.

b), c) ,d) & e) Yes, Sir, Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its Report No.3 of 2004 had stated that Food Corporation of India had suffered an avoidable loss of Rs.133.13 crores on account of additional supply of rice as `broken allowance`. The matter was examined and it was found that there was no irregularity in exports and the C&AG has been informed accordingly with the request to drop the para.

The scheme for export of foodgrains was initially started with Public Sector Undertakings like State Trading Corporation and Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation and later on opened to private exporters. There were certain cases where exporters were found to have use forged documents for export of wheat and rice. The Government have taken/initiated corrective action in these cases against the errant exporters.

f) & g) Government provides assistance to Indian exporters including exporters of grains for undertaking publicity campaigns, mounting trade delegations abroad, participation in International fairs, buyer-seller meets and financial assistance to exporters for

improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and reimbursement of certain WTO admissible costs on account of marketing and transport.

h) No, Sir.

i) Does not arise

j) Export of agricultural products including foodgrains generates foreign exchange earnings for India and also enables the Indian farmers to obtain remunerative prices for their produce leading to their economic upliftment.